



Muck: The Kentucky Horse Park's New Cash Equivalent

The Kentucky Horse Park (KHP) is greening up in time for the Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games. Numerous earth-friendly initiatives are underway including the installation of a waste to energy facility using a biomass gasification process. In this process, horse manure and bedding will be gasified to produce so called 'producer gas' for electricity generation. The producer gas will subsequently fuel a boiler that will drive the generator to produce electricity for the Park.

Muck is a current liability for the Park and the cost of its removal is significant.

With this new system, muck will transform from a liability to an asset.

Based on historic and future projections of muck generation, it is anticipated that the Park will produce 1.5 Megawatts of electricity annually from muck. This energy production will offset the Kentucky Horse Park's annual electrical needs and reduce the cost of operations by approximately \$860,000 (reduced electric service expense and elimination of muck disposal fees). The gasification process has the added benefit of reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

KHP secured funding from two sources: an Energy Savings Performance Contract (ESPC) and an ARRA grant, administered by the Kentucky Infrastructure Authority's Clean Water State Revolving Fund for the project. An ESPC is an agreement between a state government facility and an Energy

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Services Company (ESCO) in which energy-efficiency improvement projects are financed through the savings these projects are guaranteed to produce. The ESCO for this project is Ameresco of Louisville, KY. ■

"Our competition sites and trails are **disappearing**. Join me and the **Equine Land Conservation Resource** in the fight to **conserve land** for equine activities." *—Karen O'Connor, Olympian*



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859-455-8383, www.ELCR.org

Lisa Barry Photography (www.lisabarry.com)